

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
2203 SAN ANTONIO ST./ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

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NUMBER 1



COMBINED WORSHIP, VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION, AND NEW PANTRY OPEN HOUSE

Micah 6 Austin



Combined Worship

The Micah 6 Annual Combined Worship and Volunteer Recognition, as well as the New Pantry Commissioning and Open House took place on January 18 at [University Presbyterian Church](#). Read more on page 2.

Current Officers of the Board for Micah 6 Austin:

President – Gretchen Olson Kopp

Vice President – Harriett Choffell

Secretary – Jim Genevro

Treasurer – Craig Bell

Pastors' Representative – Larry Bethune

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WE MADE THE MOVE!

The new Micah 6 Pantry opened its new space at [University Presbyterian Church](#) on February 12. The “open” days & hours continue in the new location as before — Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Pantry volunteers continue to park in the [University Baptist Parking](#) lots B and C and enter UPC through the south gate facing 22nd Street.



The phone number and address for Micah 6 of Austin is now 512-473-0088; 2203 San Antonio Street, Austin, Texas 78705.

Visitors to the Micah 6 Austin website may have noticed some recent updates and improvements...Thanks to [David Durbin](#) for keeping us current and available through the internet!



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PANTRY DEDICATION/COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

The Micah 6 Austin Combined Worship Service, coordinated by **Pastor San Williams**, was held on Jan. 18, 2009 at **University Presbyterian Church**. In this celebration of Christian unity and service, **Rev. Larry Bethune** spoke about the beginnings of Micah 6 of Austin and how we had come to where we are today. In the journey, he said,

“Something else happened as an “unintended by-product” of our mission to obey Micah 6 together. Strangers in need became human in our sight because they were “in our sight” for a change. We became “soul friends” of a special kind: people needing *help* connecting with people needing *to help*, and each was God’s gift to the other. Friendships were formed between members of our different congregations and God opened doors and windows in the walls that once separated us. Folks not connected with any of our congregations volunteered because this is what they thought all along churches ought to do. And in a time of cultural conflict and polarization, we came together. We realized that while we may have historic differences of opinion about matters of faith, we are all brothers and sisters, children of the one God - as are the friends we serve.”



The combined choral voices from our member congregations sang *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*. **Gretchen Olson Kopp**, President, presented our Annual Report and recognition of our volunteers. **Mary Bowles** gave a special recognition to volunteer **Debbie Webb**, who helped start Micah 6 (*see picture*). After the service and a reception hosted by UPC, guests toured the new facility. Mary and Debbie led the commissioning of the new pantry, closing with

...Gracious God, whose love is without end, and who calls us today to open our hearts to the poor in our community, we commit ourselves anew to your service as we commission this new pantry. By the gift of your Spirit among us, may the pantry be a holy place where the hungry are fed, the poor are treated with respect, the weary find rest and the discouraged find hope and help. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, who comes to us in the form of the stranger, the homeless, the hungry and lost. Amen.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection taken during the combined worship – you helped raise over \$2,100 for Micah 6 Austin!

BOARD MEMBER DAN RICHARDS PASSES



Dan Richards, our newest Micah 6 Board member from Central Christian Church, passed away as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident on February 22. Dan joined the Board in December 2008, bringing to us his interest in helping the homeless and his experience in law enforcement. Though we had just a few meetings together as a Board, we are thankful for those shared moments and the brief opportunity to know Dan. Dan had a very long history of serving his community. He and his wife Deborah were long-time members of Central Christian Church, where Dan served as an Elder and Officer of Board, among many other active leadership positions. He was also co-Director of the Greater Austin Stone-Campbell Dialogue, a multi-denomination reconciliation effort. We offer our condolences and sympathy to his wife Deborah; sons and daughters-in-law Ben and Julie, Andy and Lana, Heath and Kristi, and Stason and Lisa; his grandchildren; and his extended family.

MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN IN THE NEWS!

On March 8, the **Austin American Statesman** published an article by **Andrea Ball** profiling Micah 6 of Austin. The article spotlighted volunteer recipient **Loremise Larosier** and the economic challenges that can bring one to the pantry. It focused on the growing need seen by the pantry and our expansion as part of our effort to serve that growing need in the



Micah 6 in the News

community. Ms. Ball's article noted that the pantry provided over 370,000 pounds of food to over 2,800 households in the 07-08 fiscal year. It also noted that the last half of 2008 saw a 26 percent increase over the same time the previous year and that the number of new recipients is on the rise, too. Our red baskets that allow shoppers to select the food they want

were highlighted as just part of our "atmosphere of respect and recognition that people who come to the pantry are important." We are delighted to have the chance to spread the word about the pantry and the great need for food assistance to the greater Austin community.

Micah 6 of Austin was also mentioned in a March 4 article in the **Austin American Statesman** about the **Sunshine Gardens**. Sunshine Gardens, Austin's biggest and oldest community garden, provides Micah 6 with much appreciated, garden-fresh vegetables every week.

You can help raise money for Micah 6 of Austin when you use the internet search engine *Goodsearch*. Go to www.goodsearch.com, enter "Micah 6 of Austin" for your charity. Each time you use this search engine, Micah 6 receives one cent. The cents will add up quickly, the more people use the site!

MICAH 6 AUSTIN ADDS A SECOND RECYCLE BIN

We have added a second recycle bin in the **All Saints Episcopal Church** parking lot (at 27th and Whitis). The original bin is located in the **University Baptist Church** parking lot (at 22nd and Neches). Now we have two locations where you can help keep the planet green and also add some green to Micah 6 of Austin funds.

Help us raise money to buy food for the food pantry by bringing your paper products (newspapers, magazines, shopping catalogues, school & office papers, mail circulars, etc.) from home and from your **church** to recycle. All paper products except corrugated cardboard and cereal boxes are acceptable. Boxes should be broken down before placing in the bin. Look for the green and yellow bin. The more pounds of paper collected, the more dollars we earn.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Micah 6 has established three new task forces to help us facilitate our strategic plan goals for 2009—Publicity, Fundraising, and Outreach. Please think about your gifts and talents and contact Gretchen Olson Kopp at gretchenrolson@yahoo.com to learn more about these new initiatives and how you can help. Each task force has a specific goal and short term timeline. People with expertise in any of these areas are encouraged to link up with us.

PUBLICITY: Increase community awareness of the Micah 6 organization through newspaper, TV, website, brochures, and newsletter. **Sue Williams** will continue to do the newsletter and **David Durbin** will continue managing the website, but task force members will look at ways to expand exposure beyond those tools, and maximize the impact of those two media. (e.g. making sure Micah 6 is listed in the Statesman among the charities providing services/seeking donations at the holidays, following up on News 8's interest in doing a story on

Micah 6, compiling a list of resource fairs/fairs of charitable organizations and making sure M6A is represented).

Contact: **Harriett Choffel** at hchoffel@austin.rr.com or **David Wofford** at wofforddavid@yahoo.com.

FUNDRAISING: Develop a fundraising plan to include among other things donor cultivation, fundraising events, and grant writing. Contact: **Mary Bowles** at maryfbowles@austin.rr.com.

OUTREACH: Contact: **Gretchen Olson Kopp** at gretchenrolson@yahoo.com.

Of course, we need regular **pantry volunteers**. In order to operate smoothly, the food pantry needs 23 volunteers at each opening. We are recruiting new permanent volunteers and need YOU once a month on

either Thursday or Saturday. And please encourage members of your congregation, your friends, other congregations, neighbors, to consider learning about Micah 6 and joining in our ministry. Visit our website to learn more about volunteer opportunities or contact **Harriett Choffel** at hchoffel@austin.rr.com or **Debbie Webb** at debbiewebb@aol.com.

WINTER PANTRY NUMBERS

	Individuals	Households	New Clients
Dec	2,704	1,079	222
Jan	4,288	1,531	383
Feb	4,270	1,513	332

Member Churches

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Central Christian Church
Congregational Church of Austin
First English Lutheran Church
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church
Saint Austin Catholic Parish
University Avenue Church of Christ
University Baptist Church
University Christian Church
University United Methodist Church
University Presbyterian Church

The mission of Micah 6 of Austin is to work together to identify and meet the needs of the homeless and the impoverished in the University of Texas campus area.

Micah 6 Messenger

Editor Sue Williams
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Website micah6austin.org

The Micah 6 Food Pantry is at
University Presbyterian Church
2203 San Antonio St.
Thurs 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. &
Sat 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What does the Lord require of you?